

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.   A method for coating an implant comprising the  
2           steps of  
3               (a) contacting the implant with an aqueous  
4               solution of magnesium, calcium, and phosphate ions;  
5               (b) passing a gaseous weak acid through the  
6               aqueous solution;  
7               (c) degassing the aqueous solution; and  
8               (d) allowing the magnesium, calcium, and  
9               phosphate ions to precipitate onto the implant to form a  
10           coating.
- 1           2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the gaseous weak  
2           acid is carbon dioxide.
- 1           3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the implant is  
2           formed from one or more of metal, organic material, polymer  
3           or ceramic.
- 1           4.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the  
2           calcium and phosphate ions are present in the aqueous  
3           solution in a molar ratio of between about 1 to about 3.
- 1           5.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the  
2           calcium and phosphate ions are present in the aqueous  
3           solution in a molar ratio of between about 1.5 to about  
4           2.5.
- 1           6.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the  
2           aqueous solution comprises about 0.5 to about 50 mM calcium  
3           ions and about 0.5 to about 20 mM phosphate ions.
- 4           7.   The method according to claim 1 wherein the  
5           aqueous solution comprises about 2.5 to about 25 mM calcium  
6           ions and about 1.0 to about 10 mM phosphate ions.

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1 17. The method according to claim 1 wherein the  
2 aqueous solution has a temperature in the range of between  
3 about 5°C to about 50°C.

1 18. The method according to claim 1 wherein the  
2 implant is treated by a mechanical or chemical surface  
3 treatment prior to contacting the implant with the aqueous  
4 solution.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the implant is  
2 treated by sand-blasting, scoring, polishing or grounding.

1 20. The method of claim 18 wherein the implant is  
2 treated by contacting with strong mineral acid or an  
3 oxidizing agent in a manner to etch the implant.

1 21. The method of claim 1 wherein the coating  
2 comprises magnesium ions, calcium ions and phosphate ions  
3 and one or more ions selected from the group consisting of  
4 hydroxide, carbonate, chloride, sodium and potassium.

1 22. The method of claim 1 wherein the coating  
2 comprises one or more of amorphous carbonate calcium  
3 phosphate, hydroxyapatite, calcium deficient and hydroxyl  
4 carbonate apatite, octacalcium phosphate, dicalcium  
5 phosphate dihydrate or calcium carbonate.

1 23. The method of claim 1 wherein the coating has a  
2 thickness of about 0.5 to about 100 microns.

1 24. The method of claim 1 wherein the coating has a  
2 thickness of about 0.5 to about 50 microns.

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1        25. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step  
2 of contacting a coated implant with a calcifying solution  
3 comprising calcium and phosphate ions, and allowing a  
4 precipitate layer of calcium and phosphate ions to form on  
5 the coated implant.

1        26. A device for coating an implant comprising  
2        (a) reactor vessel;  
3        (b) heating element operatively connected to the  
4 reactor vessel;  
5        (c) implant support;  
6        (d) stirrer disposed within the reactor vessel;  
7        (f) inlet and outlet operatively connected to  
8 the reactor vessel; and  
9        (g) controlled source of carbon dioxide  
10 operatively connected to the inlet.

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